is there, the plane is there, the pilot is there; we are only sending the passengers. What is the revenue that we are getting from that? So, what is your view on that? Are you going to stop it, or, do you want to continue with it still?

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज हुसैन: सर, वेट लीज पर नहीं बल्कि हमने कुछ विमान ड्राई लीज पर लिए हुए हैं। इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के पास अपने विमान 40 हैं और 12 विमान उसने ड्राई लीज पर लिए हुए हैं। जब हम नए विमान खरीदेंगे तो जो विमान ड्राई लीज पर लिए हुए हैं उनको हम फेज आउट करेंगे। जो पुराने विमान हैं जैसे एयर बस-300, तीन हैं और एयरलाइन्स के पास बोईंग-737, ग्यारह विमान हैं और डोर्नियर हैं। इसको फेज आउट करेंगे। इसी तरह एयर इंडिया के पास भी 21 अपने विमान हैं और 10 विमान ड्राई लीज पर हैं। जब नए विमान आएंगे तो वे उनकी जगह ले लेंगे।

*103. [The questioners Shri Raju Parmar and Shri Bhagatram Manhar were absent. For *vide* page ..... *infra*.]

Gas reserves at Andhra Pradesh coast

*104. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to State:

(a) what steps Government have taken to tap the newly discovered gas reserves of Andhra Pradesh coast by Reliance Industries;

(b) whether an estimate has been made of quantum of gas reserves; and

(c) by when commercial use of gas reserves is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), and Niko Resources Limited, Canada, has reported four gas discovereis in the deep water offshore block, KG-DWN-98/3, off the East Coast in the Krishna Godavari (K.G.) Basin. Initial estimates made by RIL, the operator, indicate total inplace gas reserves of about 9 trillion cubic feet. The discoveries are being appraised for determining commerciality for which the procedure with time frame has been provided in the Production Sharing Contract (PSC). Commercial production will depend upon establishment of

commerciality of the discoveries and the subsequent development plans. Based on industry experience, it takes about 2-4 years from the date of discovery to start commercial production from offshore depending upon the logistics, environment, markets etc. The role of the Government has been specified in the PSC, under which the contractor also has freedom to market the gas in India.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, the hon. Minister is a very clever Minister. He has answered the questions (a) to (c) in one go. I would like to put a straight question to the hon. Minister; let him answer straight to me, instead of twisting to the Chairman. Whether it is a fact that Reliance Industries Ltd. have rejected GAIL's offer to build a pipeline grid to transport and market the company's recent gas find in Krishna-Godavari basin, and, if so, how Reliance Industries plans for transportation and commercial use of the new find?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the question basically pertains to the discovery. After discovery, it is to be transported. Now, how to transport is basically a commercial transaction. Whether it is GAIL or ONGC or Reliance, they will decide among themselves which is the economic operation for them and accordingly they will take the decision. We must be happy that so much gas is being found, and once gas is found, naturally, it will be in the national interest to bring it as quickly as possible on the coast, and, then, give it to the consumers, including Andhra Pradesh.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, it means that the Government has no role in advising the Reliance Industries. The hon. Minister has indicated in his answer that nine trillion cubic feet of gas in expected from the KG basin. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the share of Andhra Pradesh. Part (b) of my supplementary is: What action has been taken to reduce India's dependence on Persian and Gulf countries for crude oil in view of the supply risk and the tapping of the newly-discovered gas reseves in Andhra Pradesh coasts?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the second part of the Member's supplementary is not at all directly concerned with this. As far as how much gas that Andhra Pradesh would get is concerned, this particular discovery is about 35 kilometres away from the coast. Naturally, when it is to be brought to the coast, Andhra Pradesh is the nearest point. After it is brought to the coast, there will be a commercial transaction because

every NLP block has the freedom to sell it and the customers would purchase it. This would be on the basis of commercial consideration, and I am sure that those who are in Andhra Pradesh would like to have a good commercial transaction and they would get it. The Reliance Industries and Niko agencies—it is a joint venture—have the freedom to sell it for commercial consideration.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, it is very horrible. It is in the coastal line of Andhra Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh has no right to the gas.

श्री सभापति: इन्होंने यह कब कहा है?

डा॰ अलादी पी. राजकुमार: सर, इन्होंने कहा कि ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री सभापति: इन्होंने कहा ही नहीं है।

श्री राम नाईक: हमने तो कहा है कि आंध्र प्रदेश में सबसे ज्यादा मिलने की संभावना है लेकिन अगर आप कमर्शियल कंसीडरेशन के आधार पर लेना चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

डा॰ अलादी पी. राजकुमार: ये नाइन ट्रिलियन एस्टीमेटिड कर रहे हैं, इसमें आंध्र पदेश को क्या परसेन्टेज मिलता है, यह तो बता दीजिए।

श्री सभापति: यह अभी कैसे बताएंगे?

डा॰ अलादी पी. राजकुमार: सभापति जी, आप हम लोगों की रक्षा कर रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति: मैं आपकी रक्षा कर रहा हूं लेकिन अभी जब ये कह रहे हैं कि कमर्शियल कंसीडरेशन के ऊपर यह सारा डिसीजन होगा तो अभी ये क्या कहें।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is always a good news for this country when gas discoveries are being made. But I would like to invite your attention to the sentence where he says, "Commercial production will depend upon establishment of commerciality of the discoveries". So far as the reserves are concerned, commerciality of the discoveries is the major point. I remember a couple of years ago the Russian experts said that Kolkata was on gas. Till date I have not seen any oil and gas production from Kolkata was on gas. Till date I have not seen any oil and gas production from Kolkata and adjoining areas, which the Minister also knows. My only query is this. How realistic is this nine trillion cubic feet, which is being quoted? I hope it is nine trillion cubic feet. But is this not giving a sort of scope? No scope should be given to

get certain monies for investment and loans from different financial institutions. These figures should not be exaggerated, which is otherwise, as you rightly said, is not commercially viable right now. So far as the reserves are concerned, would the Government ensure that this does not become a source only for attracting funds, without ensuring the exact commercial viability or availability of gas in this area?

SHRI RAM NAIK: The Reliance Industries are doing the actual field work and this is the quantity that the Reliance Industries has been given. According to them, this is the reserve. There are different stages. When the actual production starts, under the production sharing contract, it will be known as to how much it would be. But, basically, this is the overall confirmed availability, according to them. We are presently going by the figures which they have given and our Director-General of Hydrocarbons, in course of time, as and when the information is given by them, will confirm whether it is so or not.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Are you not giving credibility to the figures which are otherwise not substantiated by the Government? Are you not giving credibility to such figures? I am not mentioning the name of any corporate body. Are you not giving credibility to the figures, knowing fully well that it is still not known whether it is commercially discoverable or not?

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am giving what ever information is available with the Government. A question was asked. That is why I have clearly stated it.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: It is in the form of a clarification that you are now giving it, when a question was asked.

SHRI RAM NAIK: No, it is not so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He was saying it from the very beginning.

SHRI RAM NAIK: If you kindly read, I have said in my reply that in the initial estimates made by the Reliance Industries Limited, the operator indicates the total in place of gas reserves. I have indicated that. It is there assessment. Without reading the whole reply, if you pass on such remarks, I think it is not fair.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, it has been stated that it will take around two to four years for commercial utilisation. I want to know from the hon. Minister, when was the discovery reported and have you entered into any Memorandum of Understanding regarding the sharing of production? If 'yes', what are the details? If not, have you constituted any Expert Committee or Consultative Committee for any advice to the Government of India in this regard? I would also like to know whether you are involving the State Government in the whole process or not.

SHRI RAM NAIK: This discovery was broadly reported in October and November of this year. One of the wells, I must say—some Members also know about it—well No. 4, the depth from water to the ground level is 1,760 metres and the total find is at 3,630 metres down.

So, it is so down that they are going down nearly 3.6 kilometres. That takes time to assess all these things. Based on that, the gas will come out and according to the contract, there is a Committee of Management in which the Director General of Hydrocarbons is there and they decide the manner in which all these actions should be taken in future. The Government has a role, which is being played through the Director General of Hydrocarbons.

Drifting away of small investors in stock market

*105. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether small investors have drifted away from the stock market recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what decisions have been taken by Government to build confidence of small investors in the stock market?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.